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Letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 July 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter, its annex and appendix, which contains a letter of Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the ongoing rearmament efforts of the Greek Cypriot administration, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Şafak **Göktürk**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-53345 (E) 170700

Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 7 July 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the ongoing rearmament efforts of the Greek Cypriot administration.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix to the letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to inform you that, while we are discussing prospects for peaceful reconciliation between the two parties in Cyprus at the third round of the proximity talks being held in Geneva, Greek Cypriot rearmament activities continue, casting a shadow on the spirit and very purpose of the talks aimed at preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a peaceful settlement.

The latest and most serious development in this regard is the approval by the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives of an approximately $50 million expenditure for the purchase of the Milan 3 anti-tank missile system for the "National Guard". The system is known to be one of the most sophisticated anti-tank weapon systems in the world. The Greek Cypriot public and media have hailed the purchase as the biggest since the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system, which was diverted to Crete in the face of international pressure.

This development comes in the wake of statements by the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Socrates Hasikos, that the Greek Cypriot administration plans to purchase four more "Bell" helicopters, along with revelations that they also plan to include the Greek Cypriot "National Guard" in "Hermes", the mainland Greek Army's telecommunications network, as part of the 1993 joint military dogma between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration. The statements were made by Mr. Hasikos shortly before he left for Greece to take delivery of a gunboat from Greece, as a gift of the Greek Government, amidst reports that the Greek Cypriot administration is trying to form the nucleus of a Greek Cypriot Navy.

Previously, Mr. Hasikos had declared that the Greek Cypriot rearmament campaign would continue "despite the ongoing proximity talks", because the Greek Cypriot side "does not have the luxury of taking a pause in its rearmament efforts". In an interview issued in the Greek Cypriot daily "Politis" of 27 February 2000, Mr. Hasikos indicated that "the current process of proximity talks and the expected third round would not have an effect on their rearmament efforts". He also boasted that, "from an operational standpoint, the joint military doctrine has reached its peak".

We believe that the Security Council should not only take note of these serious developments, which do not augur well for the success of the proximity process, but should also urge the Greek Cypriot side to stop its arming frenzy.

The fact that among the countries that sell weapons to the Greek Cypriot side there are permanent members of the Security Council is particularly disappointing for us, as it is not compatible with the efforts to make progress towards a peaceful settlement. I, therefore, request that you do what is necessary in this regard in the interest of the success of your efforts and peaceful reconciliation in Cyprus.

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**
President